

March 25, 1975

I have that proposal before me. Just got a copy of it. I think the Budget Committee has a big responsibility and I would like to see them fulfill that. The major one is to get the budget up here on the floor so we can debate on it in a timely and orderly way. If this Legislature determines that you need a study of it and we made one, I thought, and we are still making it, the Education Committee ought to do that and, if that is not good enough, there are certain expertise in here that we certainly want and I have conferred a couple of times or several times with the former chairman of the Committee, Senator Warner, and I would certainly want him involved in any investigation that goes on. So I think we have a Committee to do this structure. We have been working on it and if the Legislature so determines that special education is within the authority of the Appropriations Committee, they can relieve my committee and maybe we won't address special education and maybe that is true with higher education and maybe that is true with secondary education and if that is the desire of the Legislature and if it is true on revenue and if it is true on corrections, let's not be going in two different directions. Let's determine who we want to handle what and, Senator Clark, this may be ranting and raving, as you so described it before the Committee and I think maybe you ought to address yourself to that, but just tell us what areas you want to do so we can get the hell out of them and do the other things we are suppose to be doing.

PRESIDENT: Senator Clark, Senator Lewis's light was on and I apologize because you are the introducer. The chair recognizes Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: This is a Committee resolution and the problem is not in the Education Committee. The problem happens to be in the Appropriations Committee. We, at the present time, have a deficiency appropriation that we have not acted on. We cannot act on it because the rules of the law have not been followed in 403 and certainly I think it is going to have to be cleared up, one way or the other, before we can even make a determination on the deficiency, if there is a deficiency. We don't know that. The law was never followed. The first payment was not paid out right. A hundred and twenty-two overpayments on the second one and the third payment, as Senator Lewis brought in 555 which overpays the others, had not been paid yet. There is going to be tremendous pressure on the whole Legislature to get this money out and I think that you are going to have to do it according to law. Now if it isn't right to have a Committee to do this, then vote against it. I could care less. If you want to leave it in a mess, leave it in a mess, but the Budget Committee can not, under any condition, act on that deficiency appropriation at the present time. Whether we kill it or whether we honor it, what we are going to do with it. We don't know because there is no way to know what the payments have been. Now the Commissioner of Education, Anne Campbell, called me and she said, I am wholeheartedly in favor of this Resolution. I would like to have it cleared up. Now I don't know what more you want to do. Maybe you want to listen to Senator Lewis. I don't really know about that. You can do whatever you like about it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch.